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THE OBSERVATOR.

Remarks on the Charge upon the Tories in the Advice to the Electors of Great Britain, *&c. Propoſals of Inſtructions to be given by our Electors to their Members, to enquire into the Particulars of that Charge, and into thoſe of the late Addreſſes of the Lords and Commons, about publick Miſmanagements.*

From **Wednesday**, May 5. to **Saturday**, May 8. 1708.

Country-m. I Muſt pray you to give your Opinion, Maſter, of that Charge upon the Tories, in the *Advice to the Electors of* Great Britain, *on Occaſion of the intended Invaſion*; *viz.* 'That they 'invited over the Pretender; that they will not 'look into the Bottom of *Gregg*'s Treaſon, nor lay 'open the Myſtery of *Vaiere*'s Iniquity; that they 'will repeal the Act of Abjuration, poſſibly de-'clare the Legitimacy of the Pretender, and vote 'him immediately her Majeſty's Succeſſor; for they 'have had it oftner than once under Conſideration.

Obſ. I think it a very heavy, but at the ſame Time, a very indifferent Charge, *Roger*; and am of Opinion, that as our Saviour was crucify'd betwixt two Thieves, our Religion and Civil Liberty are crucify'd by the Quarrels betwixt the two contending Factions: For each of 'em, in their Turn, make a Sacrafice of both to their Party-Quarrels, and ſeparate Views: The former did it by their Tacking and Occaſional Bills; and the latter by their voting away the Clauſe in the *Limitation-Act*, formerly mention'd, 'That no Perſon, who 'has any Office or Place of Profit under the King, 'or receives a Penſion from the Crown, ſhall be-'capable of ſerving as a Member of the Houſe of 'Commons; and by neglecting their Endeavours 'to have the Toleration ratify'd, and the Sacramen-'tal Teſt repeal'd by the *Union-Act*, and ſince.

Country-m. That appears plain enough, Maſter, which puts me and all my honeſt Neighbours upon our Guard againſt all Parties and Factions. But how d'ye make it out, that the Charge againſt the Tories is indiſtinct?

Obſ. That appears of it ſelf, *Roger*; for as there are Whigs of ſeveral Sorts, ſo there are Tories: For as we ought not to charge all the Whigs in Groſs, with making a Sacrifice of our Religion and Liberty; ſo neither ought we to include all thoſe call'd Tories in Groſs, in that heavy Accuſation of inviting over the Pretender, *&c.* becauſe it appears by the Proceedings in Parliament, ſince the Revolution, that many of thoſe whom the other Faction call Tories, have voted on the ſide of Liberty, by joining in ſettling the Proteſtant Succeſſion, by promoting the Limitations in that Act, and by procuring the Law for a Triennial Parliament, *&c.* which, as we ſaid before, is in ſo far a direct Renunciation of the Principles of Toriſm: Therefore I think there ought to have been a Diſtinction made betwixt thoſe Tories, *Roger*, and ſuch as ſtill adhere to the old Principles of Toriſm; which, according to the Doctrine of Paſſive Obedience, make the Revolution a Rebellion; and by Conſequence, the late King *William* and Queen *Mary*, and her preſent Majeſty, Rebels and Uſurpers; and deny the Power of the Parliament to regulate the Succeſſion, or ſettle it on the Houſe of *Hannover*: For 'tis evident, that many of thoſe, whom the other Faction call Tories, have join'd with the old Whigs in obtaining ſeveral Ratifications of the Act for ſettling the Succeſſion of that Family; and, to ſhew their Sincerity, did heartily move for ſecuring their Reverſion, by having one of that Family here to ſtrengthen her Majeſty's Title and Poſſeſſion againſt all the Attempts of *France*, in Favour of the Pretender; to be acquainted with our Nobility, Gentry, and Conſtitution; to be ready on all Occaſions, and not to have their own Title, and our Security, expos'd to the Uncertainty of Winds, and to the Deſigns of thoſe who are openly or ſecretly for the Pretender. Whereas many of thoſe call'd modern Whigs, join'd in thoſe Clamours and malicious Suggeſtions of the Danger that might accrue to her Majeſty and the Nation, by having any of that Family here, as if they were ſo impatient for the Reverſion, as to promote Factions againſt her Majeſty, *&c.* Which, if true, makes them as unfit for our Throne after her Majeſty's Death, (which God long prevent) as to be here before it.

Country-m. I always thought, Maſter, that whatever Reaſons of State might be alledg'd for the Cenſure which was paſs'd on Sir *Rowland Gwyn*'s Letter, our modern Whigs carry'd the Matter two far, by countenancing ſuch Libels as were then publiſh'd, wherein the Scriblers rais'd ſuch Jealouſies and Suſpicions of the Houſe of *Hannover*, as tended to leſſen their Eſteem in the Minds of the good People of *England*, who ſo unanimouſly ſettl'd the Succeſſion upon them; and conſidering how the *German* Lady *Maud* was defeated in her Succeſſion to our Crown, tho' her Title was ſecur'd by ſeveral Acts, and the People ſworn to it again and again, I could not help thinking, that thoſe Lords and Gentlemen, who went into the Motion for calling over the Electoreſs Dowager of *Hannover*, were very unjuſtly treated in thoſe Libels that charg'd them to have done it out of Enmity to the Queen, and to promote Faction; and that under ſuch oblique Reflections, the Libellers cover'd a real Enmity againſt the Houſe of *Hannover*.

Obſ. I am of your Opinion, *Roger*; for ſince the Electoreſs Dowager is known to be ſo much ſuperior in Years to her Majeſty, that humanly ſpeaking, ſhe can have no Hopes of the Reverſion; and ſince ſhe is alſo know to be a Princeſs of that Underſtanding and Vertue, as to concur in nothing that could make her Majeſty uneaſy, I think there could be no manner of Ground from her Royal Highneſs for thoſe malicious Suggeſtions rais'd by the Libellers: And ſince the Elector, her Son, has been own'd in Parliament to be a Prince of great Wiſdom, he could never be ſo weak or precipitant, as to do any Thing to ſhake that Title which is veſted ſo firmly in him by Law. Conſidering likewiſe, *Roger*, the Libels are publiſh'd with Impunity every Week, under the Title of the *Rehearſal*, againſt the very Principles of the Revolution, upon which her Majeſty's Title, as well as that of *Hannover*, is founded; and that the Author of the infamous Pamphlet, call'd *The exorbitant Grants of King* William *the III.* had the Impudence to dedicate his Libel to her Majeſty and the ----, wherein he expreſsly denies the Power of King *William* and the Parliament, to have made that Settlement, and avowedly ſets up the Pretender; for which he was rewarded, if your old Maſter ſpoke true, inſtead of being puniſh'd. I ſay, *Roger*, all theſe Things being conſider'd, it would ſeem, that ſome others than thoſe who are call'd Tories, were no great Friends to the *Hannover* Succeſſion; otherwiſe thoſe

Libels

Libels would never have pass'd without Censure, which did so audaciously bespatter the House of *Hannover* in Print.

Country-m. I am afraid, Master, there's too much Truth in what you say. But pray go on with the Author of the Advice's Charge upon the Tories, that they invited over the Pretender, and have had it oftner than once under Consideration, to repeal the Act of Abjuration, to declare his Legitimacy, and vote him her Majesty's immediate Successor.

Obs. I doubt not, *Roger*, but those, who adhere to the old Tory Principles, might be capable enough of all this. But I think 'tis very unjust and malicious, to fix the Charge upon all those, who are call'd Tories, without Distinction. I am sure our Friends, the Whigs, would reckon it so in their own Case, should any one have made such a Charge against them in general, because some of their Number are accus'd by Sir *John Fenwick*, in his last Papers, of proposing to bargain with the Court of *St. Germains*. In the next Place, *Roger*, I think the Author of the Advice, if he knows what he says to be true, makes himself guilty of Misprision of Treason, for not revealing it before-hand to the Government, that those Plotters might have been punish'd according to Law, for their treasonable Designs. And I cannot think he has done so, because there's no Body taken up for it. I must add, *Roger*, that I think the Charge calls an oblique Reflection upon her Majesty: For allowing those Tories to have had such a Majority in Parliament, as to pass those Things into a Bill, it had only been springing a Mine to blow themselves up; for the very Hour they had done so, her Majesty would certainly have dissolv'd them, and the Nation would have demanded Justice against such traiterous Representatives: So that the Danger must have been over as soon as it had appear'd, except such a treacherous Parliament had been sure of an Army to back them. I cannot but likewise observe, *Roger*, that the Malice of the Author of the Advice, seems to recoil upon himself, and his Party; who, since they thought themselves the Majority, ought to have made this Discovery in Parliament; and how he came to neglect this, let him answer it to the Government. However, to try the Sincerity of the Faction, we will make them this fair Proposal, *Roger*, That all our Electors may give Instruction to their Members, to enquire into the Truth of this Charge; for if there be any Thing in it, 'twould seem, the Pretender has more Interest in the Nation, than we generally believ'd him to have. Let them also be instructed to enquire into the Bottom of *Gregg*'s Treason, and *Valiere*'s Mystery of Iniquity: For Mr. *Harley* is concern'd, in his own Vindication, to set that Matter in a true Light, as far as the Address of the Lords seems to charge him with a Neglect, at least in not enquiring better into the Honesty of his Spies, and suffering every Clerk and Door-keeper to have Access to his Papers: And as *Gregg* has, with his dying Breath, acquitted him of any Knowledge of his Correspondence, 'tis fit he should either be honourably acquitted of the other Things laid to his Charge, or censur'd, if they be true. Let our Members be also instructed to enquire into all the other Parts of the Lords several Addresses relating to the Fleet, and the Correspondence with *France*; and likewise into the several Addresses of the House of Commons, about publick Affairs, that innocent Men may not lie under unjust Imputations, nor the guilty escape. And pray let it not be forgot to enquire, how *Scotland* came to be so expos'd without Troops and Ammunition in their Garrisons, when the Pretender came to invade it? And whether we had not early enough Notice of the Design, to have made him and his Fleet come short Home?

Advertisements.

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¶ The Title, Preface, and Contents to the sixth Volume of the Observator, are to be had of B. Bragge in Pater-Noster-Row. Price 6 d.

¶ Compleat Sets of the Observator, or single ones, ever since it was begun by Mr. Tutchin, to this Time, are to be had of B. Bragge in Pater-Noster-Row, and H. Meere at the Black-Fryar in Black-Fryars.

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